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Implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations

Letter dated 6 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

During the just-concluded general debate of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, a very few countries have once again raised the so-called "question of the representation of Taiwan in the United Nations". We express our deep regret for such gross interference in China's internal affairs by brazenly using the solemn forum of the United Nations. Upon instruction of my Government, I hereby solemnly state our position as follows:

1. There is but one China in the world, both the mainland and Taiwan are part of that one and same China, and China's sovereignty and territorial integrity brook nô division. Both the 1943 *Cairo Declaration* and the 1945 *Potsdam Proclamation* have reaffirmed in unequivocal terms China's sovereignty over Taiwan as a matter of international law. To date, the overwhelming majority of United Nations Member States have diplomatic relations with China and they all recognize the one-China principle. It is an objectivity widely recognized by the international community that cannot be changed by anybody.

2. As early as in 1971, the General Assembly at its twenty-sixth session adopted, by an overwhelming majority, resolution 2758 (XXVI), which has solved once and for all the issue of China's representation in the United Nations. Ever since the day when the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China were restored at the United Nations, the Government of the People's Republic of China has attached great importance to and worked to ensure the participation and enjoyment of the benefit of activities of the United Nations and its specialized agencies by all Chinese including, naturally, our compatriots in Taiwan. Therefore, there is simply no such issue as the so-called "Taiwan's representation in the United Nations".

3. The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization composed of sovereign States. As a part of China, Taiwan is not eligible to participate, in whatever name and under whatever pretext, in the United Nations or its specialized agencies. No sovereign State in the world would allow one of its provinces or regions to participate in the United Nations, an organization whose membership requires statehood. On 17 September this year, the General Committee of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly once again flatly rejected the inclusion in

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the agenda of the General Assembly of the so-called issue of "Taiwan's representation in the United Nations". This fully demonstrates that to raise the issue of "Taiwan's participation in the United Nations" in whatever form will fail to receive support from the vast number of United Nations Member States.

4. The question of Taiwan is purely an internal matter of China. An early solution to the Taiwan question and realization of complete reunification of the motherland is in the fundamental interest of the entire Chinese people, including Taiwan compatriots, and reflects the shared aspiration of all Chinese both at home and abroad. Adherence to the one-China principle is the basis for the development of cross-straits relations and the realization of peaceful reunification. "One country, two systems" is the best way for the reunification between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits. After its reunification with the mainland, Taiwan may keep its existing social system unchanged and enjoy a high degree of autonomy. Our Taiwan compatriots may keep their way of life unchanged, and their vital interests will be fully guaranteed. They will enjoy a lasting peace. Taiwan may then truly rely on the mainland as its hinterland for economic growth and thus get broad space for development. Our Taiwan compatriots may join the people on the mainland in exercising the right to administer the country and sharing the dignity and honour of the great motherland in the international community. Personages of Taiwan may also, as part of the Chinese delegation, participate in activities of relevant international organizations and international conferences. We are convinced that on the basis of the policy of "peaceful reunification and one country, two systems", the question of Taiwan will eventually come to an appropriate solution and China's peaceful reunification will be realized.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as an official document of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 24.

(*Signed*) **Wang** Guangya
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Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations